



## DePaul Magazine

---

Volume 1  
Issue 412023 *Fall 2018*

Article 4

---

11-19-2018

### From the President: Grounded in Mission

Follow this and additional works at: <https://via.library.depaul.edu/depaul-magazine>

---

#### Recommended Citation

(2018) "From the President: Grounded in Mission," *DePaul Magazine*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 412023 , Article 4.  
Available at: <https://via.library.depaul.edu/depaul-magazine/vol1/iss412023/4>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Alumni Publications at Via Sapiientiae. It has been accepted for inclusion in DePaul Magazine by an authorized editor of Via Sapiientiae. For more information, please contact [digitalservices@depaul.edu](mailto:digitalservices@depaul.edu).



## GROUNDED IN MISSION

As I enter the second year of my presidency at DePaul, I continue to reflect on all the things that make me joyful and blessed to be a member of this outstanding university community.

Our Catholic, Vincentian and urban mission is near and dear to me, as it is to our alumni, faculty, staff and students. I see how you carry on DePaul's mission every day as I meet you at events across the country and around the world. You make your university proud.

I'm also proud of DePaul's new strategic plan, "Grounded in Mission: The Plan for DePaul 2024." This plan serves as our guide on a path forward as an institution to a destination where DePaul will be unequaled among U.S. urban universities.

"Grounded in Mission" focuses our collective effort on the success of a diverse community of learners, and a number of major initiatives are already underway. We redesigned the fall quarter welcome experience to ensure all students receive a comprehensive introduction to DePaul. We launched a new initiative, partly funded by a generous gift from an anonymous donor, to expand support and peer mentorship for freshmen and transfer students as we seek to improve undergraduate students' first-year academic achievement, as well as their progress from freshman to sophomore year. We have re-envisioned the delivery of support services for students to improve academic outcomes and career readiness.

It is also important for our students to share a sense of community around co- and extracurricular activities. A new group, the DePaul Experience Task Force, will develop new strategies to help create a

greater sense of engagement among students and enhance school spirit on campus.

Finally, while our new strategic plan focuses on the next six years, we also must begin to imagine what DePaul will look like in 2048, when the university celebrates its sesquicentennial. We are convening a task force to help us paint that picture. Through collective engagement and innovation, the DePaul Tomorrow Task Force will consider how a myriad of topics will affect DePaul so we can prepare to meet the challenges facing higher education in the future.

These initiatives are only the beginning of our answer to the Vincentian call: What must be done? I have the utmost faith that DePaul University will continue to deliver on our promise to a new generation of diverse, engaged and active learners. In fact, these students are already here. This year, DePaul received a record number of applications, leading to one of the largest, most diverse and academically prepared freshman classes in our history.

As we embark on this new strategic plan, we have much work ahead of us. I am confident we will forge our ambitions into reality.

Together, we will stay grounded in mission.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gabriel Esteban".

*A. Gabriel Esteban, PhD  
President*